AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of
locations in a storage area:

~~comparing at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location~~
~~description, wherein~~
~~the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a~~
~~type of operation; and~~

performing the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality
of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in ~~the~~ at
least one location description, wherein
the at least one location description has a corresponding property identifying the
operation.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein
the at least one location description is specified by an application program.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein
the operation is replication.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
obtaining a set of entities, wherein
the first set of locations comprises a plurality of subsets of locations, and
an entity in the set of entities has permission to perform the operation on respective data
in at least one of the plurality of subsets of locations.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein
the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of~~
~~operation~~ are designated by a requester.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein

the requester manages data in the storage area.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein

the requester performs a management function of a set of management functions for the storage

area.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein

the requester identifies a respective physical location in the storage area corresponding to each

location described in the at least one location description.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein

each location described in the at least one location description is specified by

a beginning location and

a number of contiguous locations starting at the beginning location.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein

the at least one location description is designated by a set of indicators, wherein

the set of indicators comprises an indicator for each respective location of the plurality of

locations, and

each indicator of the set of indicators indicates whether the respective location for the

indicator is described in the at least one location description.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

obtaining a second set of locations; and

performing a second operation on the second set of locations after the operation is performed on

the given location.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein

the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of the~~

~~operation~~ are designated by the requester; and

- 3 -

the operation and the second operation are designated by the requester.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein
a sieve for the storage area comprises the at least one location description and the corresponding
property ~~describing the type of operation~~, and
each type of operation in the sieve is performed on the given location if the sieve is specified.

42. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
means for performing the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set
of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the means for performing
the following comprise:
~~comparing means for comparing at least one location of the first set of locations to at~~
~~least one location description, wherein~~
~~the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a~~
~~type of operation; and~~
performing means for performing the operation upon a given location in the first set of
locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location
is described in ~~the~~ at least one location description <u>wherein</u>
<u>the at least one location description has a corresponding property identifying the</u>
<u>operation.</u>

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42 wherein
the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of~~
~~operation~~ are designated by a requester.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42 further comprising:
obtaining means for obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

46. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a module configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation on
a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the module
configured to perform the following comprises:

- 4 -

a comparing module configured to compare at least one location of the first set of
 ~~locations to at least one location description, wherein~~
 ~~the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a~~
 ~~type of operation; and~~
a performing module configured to perform the operation upon a given location in the
 first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the
 given location is described in ~~the~~ at least one location description, wherein
 the at least one location description has a corresponding property identifying the
 operation.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein
the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of~~
 ~~operation~~ are designated by a requester.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising:
an obtaining module to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

50. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising:
instructions configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation
 on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the
 instructions configured to perform the following comprise:
 ~~comparing instructions configured to compare at least one location of the first set of~~
 ~~locations to at least one location description, wherein~~
 ~~the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a~~
 ~~type of operation; and~~
performing instructions configured to perform the operation upon a given location in the
 first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the
 given location is described in ~~the~~ at least one location description, wherein
 the at least one location description has a corresponding property identifying the
 operation.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property ~~describing the type of the operation~~ are designated by a requester.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising:

obtaining instructions to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:

a processor; and

the computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein

the computer-readable medium is coupled to the processor.

55-61. (Cancelled)